

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Legislative Session

November 17, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

President Moore called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 P.M. in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkesburg, PA 15221.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Council members present were: Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin and Council President Moore. Also present were Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager and Isobel Storch, Esquire from the Law Offices of Patricia McGrail, L.L.C., and Borough Solicitor. Mr. Cohn and Mayor John Thompson were absent. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Moore requested a moment of silence be observed for victims of violent crime in Wilkesburg and surrounding areas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kate Grannemann – 622 Whitney Ave. Apt. #7 – Announced that Wilkesburg caroling will take place on December 18 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and invited the community to participate. This is the second year for the event and a party is planned following the caroling to be held at Hosanna House from 7:15-8:30 p.m.

President Moore requested an Executive Session following the meeting to discuss litigation.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

Ordinance No. 2852

Establishing Handicap parking Space – 2156 Village Drive

Moved: Mr. Lewis

Second: Ms. Trice

Yes: Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

Motion carried

Ordinance No. 2853

Establishing Handicap Parking Space – 7413 Lighthouse Point

Moved: Mr. Lewis

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
November 17, 2010

Yes: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Trice, Ms. Evans, Ms. Ervin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Macklin,
President Moore

Motion carried

RESOLUTIONS

10-112

Preliminary adoption of the 2011 Budget and release for public inspection.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Mr. Lefebvre questioned whether the action authorizes the release of the budget document for public inspection and if changes may continue to be made prior to final adoption. Ms. Marcinko advised that was correct. Ms. Ervin questioned whether any adjustments had been made following the last budget work session. Ms. Marcinko advised that she had forwarded a summary to full Council of the adjustments made to budget figures and year-end projections and hard copies were provided. Ms. Marcinko advised that expenditures had not been adjusted for any police personnel costs pending a final decision from Council. Mr. Lewis commented that he thought there would be additional changes made at each department level to reduce expenditures. He further questioned whether the budget could be made available to the public without requiring preliminary passage. Ms. Storch was asked to check the Borough Code. Ms. Macklin commented that a significant reduction of expenditures was needed and expressed concern with the depletion of the fund balance.

Ms. Marcinko questioned the additional changes Council wishes to see in the 2011 Budget. She asked that Council review the summaries contained in the Manager's Budget Message to Council and called attention to the 3% increase in expenditures from 2010 to 2011 and the extremely low ratio that represents for a municipal budget with many fixed costs experiencing increases in excess of 3%. Again, conservative budgeting has been practiced with revenues budgeted on the low side and expenditures budgeted on the high side. Additionally, the operating budget for the fire department was included. Mr. Lewis commented on "miscellaneous" line items. Ms. Marcinko responded that the "miscellaneous" amounts reflected an additional estimate included in order to more closely equal current year and prior year spending levels. Ms. Storch advised that preliminary/tentative adoption was not required by the Borough Code. The budget must be prepared and made available to the public for inspection.

10-112

Authorize the Borough Manager to release the 2011 Budget for public inspection.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Yes: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Trice, Ms. Evans, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

No: Ms. Macklin

Motion carried 7:1

10-113

Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 10/6/10 and 10/20/10.

Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
November 17, 2010

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson requested a correction to page seven (7) of the October 20, 2010 minutes to change to "Gregg Bowers". Ms. Macklin requested a correction to the October 20, 2010 minutes to "all day policy conference on Women's Reproductive Health that was held at Hosanna House on October 22, 2010 and sponsored by New Voices."

Moved: Mr. Lewis

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, President Moore

Abstain: Ms. Ervin (October 20, 2010 minutes)

Motion carried 7:0 with 1 abstention

10-114

Approving the October Checks Issued in the amounts as follows:

Regular distributions 10/01/10-10/31/10	\$1,579,006.10
Payroll Disbursements	\$ 339,826.23
Voided Checks	\$ (3,533.00)
Total	\$1,915,299.33

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, President Moore

No: Ms. Trice, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Ervin

Motion failed

10-115

Sponsoring the Holiday Parade and authorizing street closure.

Moved: Mr. Lewis

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, President Moore

Motion carried

10-116

Sponsoring a banner for the Holiday Parade.

Moved: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Second: Ms. Trice

10-117

Hiring Barbara Cooper as School Crossing Guard.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
November 17, 2010

Yes: Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Trice, Ms. Evans, Ms. Ervin, Mr. Lefebvre,
President Moore

Motion carried

10-118

Hiring Cynthia Pendleton as School Crossing Guard

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. Trice

President Moore questioned who makes the assignments to intersections. Chief Coleman advised that she makes the assignments which are prioritized based upon public safety needs.

Yes: Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre,
President Moore

Motion carried

10-119

Approving Vacant Property Recovery Program application for 800 Wood St.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. Macklin

Yes: Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin,
Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

Motion carried

10-120

Approving Vacant Property Recovery Program Application for 1214 Wood St.

Moved: Mr. Lewis

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Ms. Ervin questioned the location of property. The property is located at the corner of Hill Ave. and Wood St.

Yes: Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Trice, Ms. Evans, Ms. Ervin, Mr. Lefebvre,
President Moore

Motion carried

ORDINANCENS ON FIRST READING

2854

Establishing the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2011

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
November 17, 2010

Mr. Lewis questioned whether changes can be made to the ordinance following advertisement. Ms. Marcinko advised that changes may be made provided they are not considered "substantial" and she will delay the publication of the legal ad as late as possible which would be seven (7) days prior to scheduled adoption.

Moved: Mr. Lefebvre

Second: Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

Yes: Ms. Ervin, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

Motion carried

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Macklin commented that the new Solid Waste Ordinance has been passed and that changes were needed to provide for condominiums and fines. Ms. Macklin requested a copy of the final ordinance.

Ms. Macklin advised that she had asked Chief Coleman if additional school crossing guards were expected to be hired. Chief Coleman advised that more applicants were needed. Ms. Marcinko stated that there are a number of applicants available and crossing guard and sub-firefighter positions are the only positions for which the Borough continually recruits.

President Moore advised that letters were sent to all non-profit organizations, under her and the Mayor's signature, requesting a payment in lieu of taxes. President Moore received a letter from Hosanna House advising of a pledge of \$2,500.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lefebvre commented on the need to replace the vehicle for the K-9 unit. The Public Safety Committee met and discussed that Baldwin Borough has a vehicle available for sale at a cost of \$7,000. The Borough's current vehicle is fifteen years old.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Lefebvre, **second** by Ms. Macklin, to authorize the purchase of a K-9 vehicle from Baldwin Borough at a cost of \$7,000.

President Moore questioned whether the vehicle had been inspected. Ms. Ervin questioned the age of the vehicle. Sgt. Singer responded that the vehicle is a 2003, in good condition with low mileage and completely outfitted. He further commented that maintenance costs for the current vehicle are staggering.

Yes: Mr. Lewis, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Trice, Ms. Evans, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

No: Ms. Ervin

Motion carried 7:1

Mr. Lewis questioned the status of vehicles parked in the underground parking garage and the need to consider their disposal. Chief Coleman will conduct an inventory and report back. Ms. Ervin commented that the Borough had previously leased storage space in the garage.

Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
November 17, 2010

Ms. Macklin apologized for the late distribution of a resolution concerning Social Security. Ms. Macklin read aloud the resolution she is proposing to sponsor on Social Security.

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Mr. Lewis

Mr. Lefebvre commented that he had researched and attempted to validate the information contained in the resolution. He commented that he was not able to validate the information and therefore could not support the resolution. Ms. Macklin suggested that action on the resolution be tabled until additional research could be performed. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson cited that the resolution contains a reference to "president of Congress"

President Moore advised that the Children's Department is offering electronic game time after school hours, Monday through Friday. Children can use the Wii Game System, which is family friendly, and provides an active alternative to sitting at a computer or playing a board game. A University of Pittsburgh graduate student is serving an internship in the Wilkinsburg Public Library and expects to receive his MLS (Masters in Library Science) in December. The Wilkinsburg Public Library was his first choice for his internship as he is a Wilkinsburg resident.

Ms. Trice commented on complaints/requests for service she has received which require attention by DPW. Specifically, tires dumped at Montier Street and Glenn Avenue, posting of the residential parking restriction across from Turner Field on Laketon Road and a request for lighting in the 1500 block of Swissvale Avenue. Ms. Marcinko advised that part of Laketon Road had been posted and that more signs had to be ordered.

President Moore questioned the schedule for leaf pick up after receiving an email from a resident. Ms. Marcinko advised that the leaf machine has been out every day since November 8, 2010.

Mr. Lewis commented on door hangers which have been left, supposedly by Comcast representatives, which appears to be a scam. He forwarded the information to Chief Coleman and confirmed with Comcast that they do not have any authorized representatives in the area distributing door hangers.

President Moore commented that refuse collection had been missed by the City of Pittsburgh at a couple of residences.

Council President Moore requested that the Capital Planning Committee consider including ADA accessibility issues at the Municipal Building in their Capital Plan.

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson announced the Chamber of Commerce breakfast on November 23, 2010 at 7:30 a.m. at the Western PA School for the Deaf. She also announced that the Local Government Academy Newly elected Officials Alumni reunion will be held on Friday, December 3, 2010 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. – the event is free to alumni and \$35.00 for guests. Finally, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson announced that a peace march is proposed to be held in Hamnett Place with details to be announced at a later date.

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson advised that the Wilkinsburg Toy Drive is underway for newborns to three years of age and teens ages thirteen through eighteen. She requested Council's approval for the Borough to pay for postage for mailings and assistance from DPW with pick up of toys. It was the consensus of Council to approve the requests.

Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
November 17, 2010

Ms. Macklin spoke with a resident who lives on Laketon Road regarding an injury sustained by her grandson at Ferguson Playground due to a hole. She requested the hole be repaired.

President Moore questioned the activity of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Ms. McCarthy-Johnson advised that additional volunteers are needed. Ms. Trice suggested a notice be placed in the Wilkinsburg Sun advising that volunteers are needed to serve on boards and commissions.

Mr. Lewis advised that he is working on the Junior Council Person Program and trying to recruit members. He has been working with the Wilkinsburg School District. Mr. Lewis suggested that Council consider a small monthly stipend of \$27.50 for JCP program participants. Ms. Evans commented that eligibility should apply to any high school student who resides in the Borough of Wilkinsburg. Mr. Lewis will follow-up on this as well as whether other communities pay a stipend.

Council recessed to Executive Session at approximately 8:40 p.m.

Council reconvened at approximately 9:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, on **motion** by Mr. Lewis, **second** by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 p.m.

Eugenia Moore, Council President